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N^o. XXVIII.

An account of a Hill, on the borders of N. Carolina, supposed to have been a Volcano. In a Letter from a Continental Officer, residing in that neighbourhood, to DR. J. GREENWAY, near Petersburg, in Virginia.

DEAR DOCTOR,

Read Feb.
19, 1790.

A GREEABLE to promise I have visited the Volcano on Dan-River, or the *Bursted-Hill*, as the people there call it; and here send you a description of it as accurate as I could take on the spot.

The base of the hill is about three quarters of a mile in circumference in form of a cone or sugar loaf one hundred and thirty feet high. It appears to be formed of lava, mixed with round white stones, that break with a small stroke. There are large rocks or masses of the melted matter, weighing a thousand weight or more, lying on the summit of the hill, mixed with pebbles, supposed to be the place where the lava bursted out; from which it took its course, downward, and through the second low grounds of Dan-River, for near half a mile.

This stream appears to have been six or eight inches deep, but is now crumbled to pieces, upon which there is a mould of rich earth formed five or six inches thick. The lava, issuing from the hill, has spread over all the adjacent level ground which is not less than one hundred and fifty yards wide.

This level plain, or second low grounds, was covered with large timber-trees, but has been cleared since, and cultivated. The hill itself is covered with trees, some of which appear to be old. There

There are a number of round stones, thrown to the distance of half a mile from the hill, that seem to have felt the force of fire to a considerable degree: these, I suppose, were thrown out of the hill, by the violence of the eruption.

It is the opinion of some, that the hill has bursted twice; and that, the second time, it did not run with melted matter, as at the first eruption; but only threw out the large lumps of lava, which appear on the top of the ground.

I remain, Sir,

With great respect,

Yours, &c. T. D.

Additional remarks on the same subject, by the author of the foregoing account: addressed to DR. GREENWAY.

Read Feb.
19, 1790.

THE crater is nearly filled up, and covered with large trees: one side still shews the hollow appearance of a crater.

The lava covers the top in many places, but in others the congealed lava has been thrown out in large pieces around the hill, which seems to be done by an eruption subsequent to the melting and boiling. Pieces, weighing one thousand pounds or more, lie around the hill; some near, others more distant.

The stream of lava terminates within twenty yards of a creek and is nearly uniform in thickness, without any large stones, toward the end, but only gravel congealed in it.

The mouldered lava is of the colour of rusty iron, and is covered with a rich mould of six inches, of a different appearance, and the same as covers the adjacent ground.

It

It appears that this covering of mould has been laid upon the lava by inundations of the river. The mouldered part of the stream of lava is, in many places, ploughed up, and seems to moulder and crumble away much faster when thus exposed to the air.

The lava has iron in its composition, and when pulverized is attracted by the magnet; and wherever a pebble-stone is struck out from it, there remains a cavity, greatly resembling a cast iron vessel: so that this congealed matter must have sustained a great degree of fire to keep it in a state of liquefaction, boiling and running over the top of the volcano, in a stream of liquid fire, for half a mile, on the level ground, before it congealed. After subjecting it to the magnet, as mentioned above, we submitted it to the crucible, where it melted and ran as we are told the lava of *Ætna* does.

Farther remarks: extracted from a letter from DR. GREENWAY to DR. BARTON.

Read May, 18, 1792. THE gentleman who examined this extinguished volcano, and furnished me with his description of it, has since brought me a piece of the lava, of which, he says, there are coagulated masses, on the summit of the hill, that will weigh a thousand or fifteen hundred pounds. It is composed of earth, common pebble-stones, some metallic substance, particularly iron attracted by the magnet; and the whole melts into a confused liquid mass in a crucible placed in the heat of a common smith's furnace.